

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the Office Action mailed April 5, 2007 (hereinafter "Office Action"). Applicants especially appreciate the indication that Claims 3 and 12 recite patentable subject matter. In response, rather than writing dependent Claims 3 and 12 in independent form at this time, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1 and 10 to clarify the nature of the delay control with respect to the variable gain amplifier, the amplification path, and the bypass. Applicants have also amended dependent Claims 2 and 11 to be consistent with the amendments made to independent Claims 1 and 10. Applicants submit that the cited reference fails to disclose or suggest all of the recitations of independent Claims 1 and 10 as amended. Accordingly, Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of all pending claims is respectfully requested for at least the reasons discussed hereafter.

Independent Claims 1 and 10 are Patentable

Independent Claims 1 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 5,909,643 to Aihara (hereinafter "Aihara"). (Office Action, page 2). The Specification of the present application on pages 8 and 9 discusses various embodiments of the present invention with respect to how an RF signal is routed. Under a first condition in which RF output power is to be increased, the RF signal is routed through a bypass path. In this situation, the gain of the variable gain amplifier is reduced while maintaining the amplifier circuit in a bypass mode. After a delay time has elapsed, the amplifier circuit is switched from the bypass mode to the power application mode. Under a second condition in which RF output power is to be reduced, the operations are similar as discussed on page 8, lines 11 - 18 and page 9, lines 13 - 25.

Independent Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to clarify this aspect of the present invention. Independent Claim 1 recites, in part:

...
a delay control means for controlling the variable gain amplifier, the amplification path, and the bypass, such that when the RF output power of the RF signal is to be increased, a variable gain of the variable gain amplifier circuit is reduced before operating conditions of the amplification path and the

bypass are set, after a delay time period, to a state in which the RF signal is passed through the amplification path to achieve the output power specified, and vice versa when the RF output power of the RF signal is to be reduced.
(Emphasis added).

Independent Claim 10 includes similar recitations. Applicants acknowledge that Aihara discloses an amplifier circuit in FIG. 1 that includes a variable gain amplifier 13 as well as a power amplifier 15 and a bypass circuit 17. Applicants submit, however, that Aihara does not disclose or suggest the particular operability of the variable gain amplifier, amplification path, and bypass as recited in independent Claims 1 and 10. Aihara is directed to improving the control characteristic and reducing the power consumption of a phone transmitter.

(Aihara, col. 1, lines 60 - 64). This may be done by switching the power amplifier off (Aihara, col. 2, lines 18 - 23), by providing an isolator or resistive attenuator in the bypass line (Aihara, col. 2, lines 32 - 36), and by providing a circulator at the output side (Aihara, col. 2, lines 37 - 42). In sharp contrast, according to the recitations of amended independent Claims 1 and 10, a desired output power may is achieved by adjusting the gain of the variable gain amplifier one the one hand, while setting operating conditions for the amplification path and the bypass on the other hand as highlighted above.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1 and 10 are patentable over the cited reference, and that dependent Claims 2 – 9 and 11 - 15 are patentable at least by virtue of their depending from an allowable claim. In addition, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 3 and 12 are separately patentable for at least the reason that they are indicated as so in the Office Action on page 4.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-entitled application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

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Sheena Donnelly